

## In the Claims

Please rewrite Claims 1 and 2 and add new Claims 3-9 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A power source comprising:

at least ~~one~~ two rectangular parallelepiped ~~batteries~~, each battery having a positive electrode ~~on a first surface~~ and a negative electrode on each of top and bottom surfaces, the at least two batteries being vertically disposed, the positive electrode on a side surface of a lower battery of the at least two batteries electrically connected with the negative electrode of the top surface of an upper battery of the at least two batteries ~~a second surface, the rectangular parallelepiped battery containing at least a pair of batteries connected in series, the rectangular parallelepiped battery having an intermediate electrode with an intermediate potential between potentials of the positive and negative electrodes;~~

a protection circuit including a protection switch disposed between a load having one end that is grounded and the negative electrode of the ~~rectangular parallelepiped lower~~ battery and a detection circuit that detects one of overcharging and over-discharging of at least one of the batteries ~~the rectangular parallelepiped battery~~ and turns off the protection switch accordingly, the detection circuit disposed between the load and the negative electrode of the upper battery, the protection circuit disposed on a portion of the top surface of the upper battery;

a shield member ~~including a sheet portion~~ covering at least the protection switch such that the protection switch is shielded; and

an insulating member provided between the shield member and the protection circuit ~~and between the shield member and the intermediate electrode of the rectangular parallelepiped battery,~~

wherein one end of the ~~sheet portion of the shield member is connected to the negative electrode of the rectangular parallelepiped battery so as to be directly grounded~~ one end of the load for DC voltage, and

wherein the ~~sheet portion and the insulating member of the shield member and intermediate potential electrode form a capacitor such that the intermediate potential electrode of the rectangular parallelepiped battery is connected to ground through the capacitor~~ an extended portion of the insulating member is extended onto the top surface of the upper battery, and the shield

member is extended onto an upper surface of the extended portion of the insulating member, and

the shield layer, the insulating member, and the negative electrode of the upper battery form a capacitor, thereby grounding the negative electrode of the upper battery through the capacitor at high frequencies.

2. (Currently Amended) The power source according to claim 1, further comprising:

a negative electrode terminal connected to the negative electrode of the ~~rectangular parallelepiped~~ lower battery;

a voltage detection terminal connected to the positive electrode of the ~~rectangular parallelepiped~~ upper battery;

an overcurrent detection terminal to measure a current that flows through the protection switch; and

a control terminal that generates a signal to turn off the protection switch,

wherein the shield member shields the voltage detection terminal, the overcurrent detection terminal, and the control terminal.

3. (New) The power source according to claim 1, wherein the shield layer physically contacts a negative electrode terminal.

4. (New) The power source according to claim 1, wherein the shield layer physically contacts a negative electrode terminal on a side surface of the upper battery.

5. (New) The power source according to claim 2, wherein the shield layer physically contacts a negative electrode terminal.

6. (New) The power source according to claim 2, wherein the shield layer physically contacts a negative electrode terminal on a side surface of the upper battery.

7. (New) A power source comprising:  
at least two rectangular parallelepiped batteries, each battery having a positive electrode and a negative electrode on each of top and bottom surfaces, the

at least two batteries being vertically disposed, the positive electrode on a side surface of a lower battery of the at least two batteries electrically connected with the negative electrode of the top surface of an upper battery of the at least two batteries;

a protection circuit including a protection switch disposed between a load having one end that is grounded and the negative electrode of the lower battery and a detection circuit that detects one of overcharging and over-discharging of at least one of the batteries and turns off the protection switch accordingly, the detection circuit disposed between the load and the negative electrode of the upper battery, the protection circuit disposed on a portion of the top surface of the upper battery;

a shield member covering at least the protection switch such that the protection switch is shielded; and

an insulating member provided between the shield member and the protection circuit,

wherein one end of the shield member is connected to one end of the load for DC voltage, and

wherein an extended portion of the insulating member is extended onto a side surface of the upper battery, and the shield member is extended onto an upper surface of the extended portion of the insulating member.

8. (New) The power source according to claim 7, wherein the shield layer physically contacts a negative electrode terminal.

9. (New) The power source according to claim 7, wherein the shield layer physically contacts a negative electrode terminal on the side surface of the upper battery.